DUTCH NATIONAL COSTUMES

Sixteen Prints
Map
Description

Henrietta's mother, Anna Maria FELDMAN, RAKERS married second, Herman Heinrich STEFFENS. They had Johan Henrich STEFFENS. He was third younger to Henrietta. He and she corresponded in English after Henrietta came to America 1885 or '87. Henrietta's daughter, Rose, wrote for her mother because she was not able to write. That was about 1910. Then, granddaughter, Rosemary, did the writing about 1932. Also, we remember Mary, Rose's sister, corresponded with German relatives. So, this may be how our grandmother, Mary TEIPEN, BURNS received these prints from her first cousin 123(117)Johannes Hermann STEFFENS, who was a son of her mothers half brother, Johan STEFFENS, their common ancestor being Anna Maria. The envelope shows all we know about the sender. It is post marked New Orleans, LA April 10, 1954. Return address hand writing says: Chief Steward. A.b.s.s. Trajanus New Orleans. Afr. Joh. Steffens c/o Tilherna? Weerperryde 841 h Ansterdam.O. Holland. The original prints are the property of Ruth Jefferys.

123(117)Johannes Hermann "Hans" Steffens

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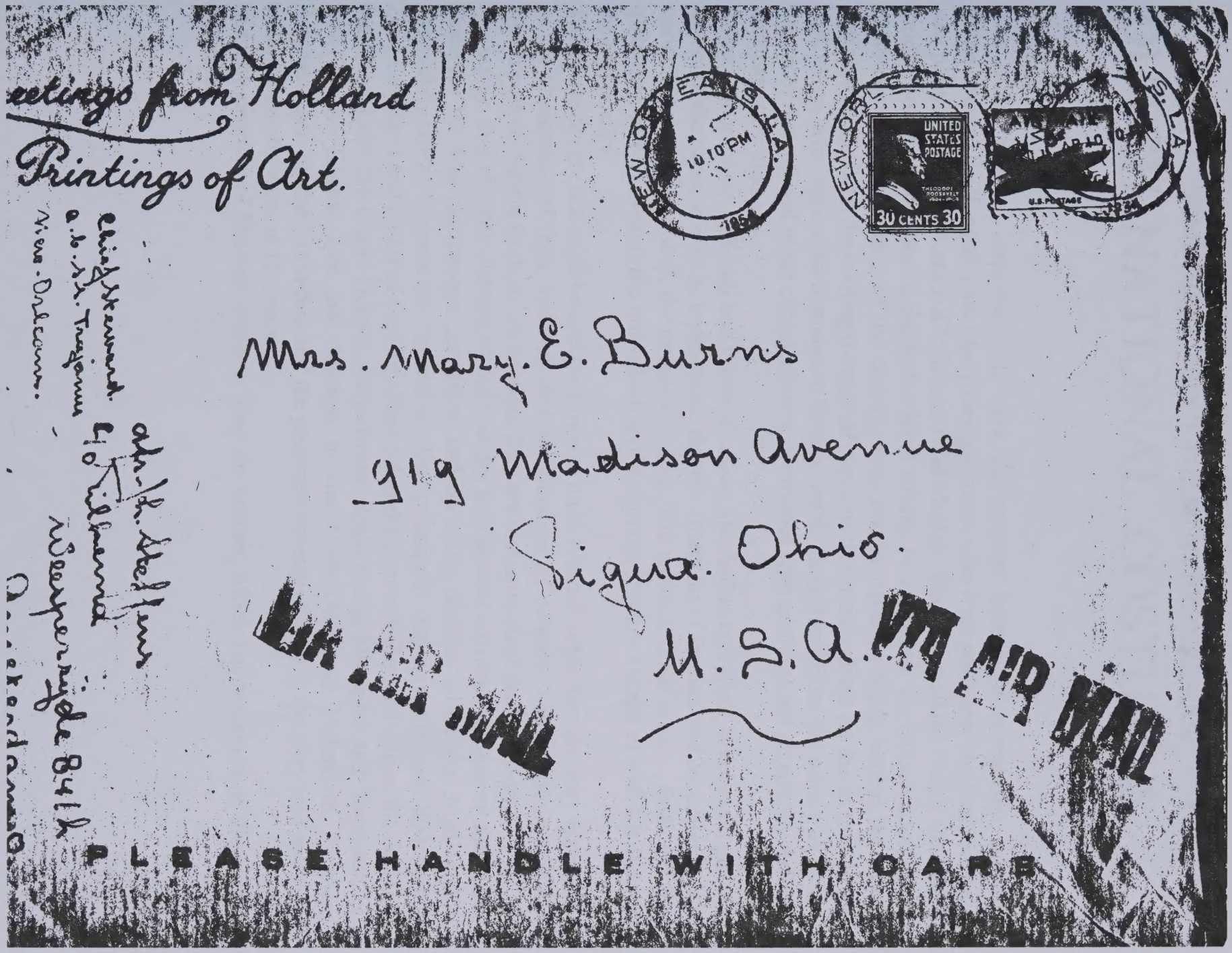
April 19, 1998


eetings from Holland
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SOMETHING ABOUT THE MOST PICTURESQUE

DUTCH NATIONAL COSTUMES

The Dutch national costumes still have the greatest interest of everybody. as well in the country itself, as abroad. Many foreign tourist who does not know Holland, but only saw pictures of the costumes of Volendarn and Marken, thinks that all the Dutch wear wide knickerbockers and wooden shoes, but he is wrong. Nevertheless the conservation of the costumes in several parts of the country may not be titled as being behind the times. Decoration has been the leading thought of the primitive human dress for the women in the first place. who wanted to distinguish themselves in their dress from the others. Also the nature of the soil and other circumstances, connected with geology and geography defined the costume's shape.

Relegious opinions, national and political causes also influenced form, colour and general aspect of the dress. It is to be understood, that the character of the national costumes is in a very close connection with the national feeling. The national dress is no , , fashion", but quite the contrary, it aims the individuality of a country, town or district of which it accents the personality.

The costumes are not at all behind the times or uncivilisated, often they are very expensive in the choiceness of their make-up and combination of colours. The personality of the Dutch people therein finds its expression; they are monuments of our ancestors.

It is a pity, that in some districts of our country the national costumes disappear and make place for the less picturesque „common fashion". The districts where the dress is still completely worm, become smaller and smaller; principally remain the islands Walcheren, Zuid-Beveland and a part of Flemish-Zealand in the province Zeeland; along the coast of the Ussel-Lake the towns Huizen, Bunschoten, Spakenburg, Nunspeet and Staphorst, as well as the islands Urk and Marken in the Ussel-Lake and Volendam. Further, Scheveningen on the North-Sea and the province Friesland, here is the very rich and fine costume mostly worn at festivities.

In many districts of Brabant you only find the bonnet, which has remained of the whole costume.

MAP OF HOLLAND
Showing where
Dutch National Costumes
are worn.
NOORD-ZEE (NORTH SEA)
LEEUWARDEN
GRONINGEN
FRIESLAND
ASSEN
DRENTE
WEST-
FRIESLAND
NOORD-
HOLLAND
URK
STAPHORST
VOLENDAM
MARKEN
ZWOLLE
IJSSELMEER
(IJSSEL LAKE)
TWENTE
AMSTERDAM
NUNSPEET
OVERIJSEL
HUIZEN
SPAKENBURG
GELDERLAND
THE HAGUE
UTRECHT
SCHEVENINGEN
ZUID-HOLLAND
ROTTERDAM
ARNHEM
'S-HERTOGENBOSCH
GERMANY
ZEELAND
WALCHEREN
BRABANT
NOORD-BRABANT
MIDDELBURG
AXEL
ZEEUWSCH-VLAANDEREN
ANTWERP
BELGIUM
LIMBURG
MAASTRICHT
MEN-DRESS
WOMEN DRESS
CHILDREN'S DRESS
FRONTIER OF THE PROVINCES
RIVERS AND CANALS

AXEL - ZEEUWSCH VLAANDEREN - HOLLAND

AXEL

On the first view this dress seems exotic, probably influenced by the madonna statues in the Catholic churches of Flanders. strange of form and very aesthetic.
The upper part of the woman's body is dressed with a bodice. of which the short sleeves. 'ending just above the elbow, are bordered with lace. The very rich decoration of corals and the kerchief with flowers. which is drawn up on the shoulders into two large ..balloon sleeves" are seen first. Generally the apron is of dark silk with bright flowers, with a big knot of broad silk ribbons. Then the coral neck-chain with gold clasp and some gold chains and brooches. of which the most principal fastens the big silk knot at the waist. The cover of the head is very simple. The Axel costume is only worn by Protestants. the Catholics wear civilian clothes.

BRABANT.

Like in many other districts of Holland the cap is here the only rest of the costume. though the costume itself is is even still extraordinary. In the cap therefore all ingeniousness is concentrated and nearly every village has its own form and the differences are sometimes very particular. Usually the cap is made of lace and is of a large size, therefore very expensive. Often it is decorated with corals and a big brim of flowers. which is laid around the head like a wreath as thick as an arm and fastened by a small ribbon. On this brim often are broad ribbons of white silk, hanging over the back nearly till the waist. Children often wear in their caps little bells of black glass. which jingle when they are walking. With the cap often special gold decorations are worn.

FRIESLAND - HOLLAND

FRIESLAND.

It is remarkable that the usual national costume here is worn only on special festivities and is put away the rest of the time in cupboards and boxes. Nevertheless the Frisian costume is of a special refinement, tile big -golden ear-decoration with fine cap of lace signs to a great richness. The costume consists principally of a somewhat wide bodice (reaching. the knees) and petticoats of silk in different colours. over which a kerchief,. crossed on the breast. is worn. Kerchief and apron often are, as well as the fine cap, of very expensive graceful and fine lace, the latter with the big golden buttons at the temples.

The men's costume with the three-cornered hat and knee-breeches make a real aesthetic impression.

HUIZEN - HOLLAND

HUIZEN.

The **costu**mes in this Protestant fisherman's village on the Zuyder Sea are very peculiar. The **cap** is of quite an other form than those of all other Dutch forms of caps. The bodice is also different with Its fine pleats at the waist. very wide balloon-sleeves. plain-coloured black or brown material in which little flowers have been woven.

Over the dark petticoat. which closes on the left side, a blue apron is worn. on Sundays this is purple or an other colour. Over the apron comes a belt with loose ribbons. On the feet low, lachered shoes are worn on Sundays.

On weekly days the sleeves are rolled up. not on Sundays. Around the neck 5 rows of garnet-corals with clasp, sometimes also a coloured silk muffler.

The cap is the most curious thing in the costume. The hair is worn with a parting in the middle. The cover for the head is : first a black undercap and a white over- or ear-ornamentcap. Thi5 one is of white tulle with edges and long tails of lace. on the left and right side hanging over the shoulders.

A brde wears a gown of brown material with a light-blue wide apron of fine wool with a ribbon of blue silk. this gown is worn only one time. when the girl goes into betrothment.

At the wedding the bride is whole in black, the apron is also black. The blue apron is changed Into a christening-gown for the first child

MARKEN.

Of all national costumes. those of Marken are the most remarkable and singular. therewith very complicated. Where we see that the island is quite near Amsterdam, it is very noteworthy that the costume is still unchanged.

The boys and girls are dressed the same till their sixth year. they wear coloured petticoats with caps of flowered red material. the only difference is the form of the cap. After their sixth birthday the boys get the complete man's dress. The girls after their sixteenth year a woman's dress.

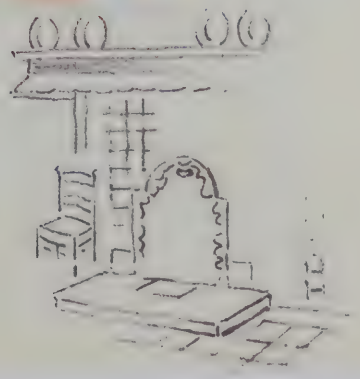
The upper part of the body is clad with a bodice with long striped sleeves, the bodice has a rich ornament of geometric flowers in strong colours. Around the hips are fastened a kind of long cushions, which make the petticoats fall wider. The blue apron is of woven. checkered cotton. Over the sleeves another pair of half-sleeves till the elbows, made of violet satinet with yellow. Around the neck is a little shawl. pleated in a special way and at the ends decorated with little tassels of silver and coral.

The covering of the head is a white cap, over which a stiff ribbon and two bands and a ribbon with ornaments in cross-stitch.

The mostly straw-yellow hairs are cut off in the neck, the rest twisted to long curls. coming from under the cap on both sides of the head. the hair in front is cut short and slightly curled upwards.

The men wear wide trousers till just under the knees, so that the blue stockings can he seen. They wear a round felt hat.

NUNSPEET - HOLLAND



NUNSPEET.

The national costume of the Zuyder-Seacoast is principally worn along the border of the Veluwe. Noteworthy is, that the kerchief is not pinned at the waist, but under the arm-pits. The cap has an other shape than those of Staphorst, forming itself more behind than above the head. with a white undercap. scalloped at the temples, spanning around the whole head and furnished with a fine pleated strip.
Over that cape comes the party-coloured cap. which shows a little part of the white one. Hereover the silver casque. fastened with a ribbon and a golden curl at the temples. The hair is all hidden under. the cap. At funerals you can often see peculiar costumes, the men in long jackets and top hat.

SCHEVENINGEN - HOLLAND

SCHEVENINGEN.

It is very remarkable how it is possible. that in a fisberman's village just near a large city, The Hague. and direct near an international high life bathing-place population. the inhabitants wear their own costume. as if the bathing place was not there.

The woman of Scheveningen wears 5 petticoats over each other. all of different colour and material. over them she wears a black apron. on Sundays made of silk. The upper part of the body is clad with a bodice of gray. brown or blue cotton and a square shawl, folded to a big triangle. is fastened at the waist. On the head a cap with ear-ornament. fixed with two upright pearl pins.

The shawl is fastened around the neck with a gold brooch with chain and gold clasp. Roman Catholic women wear a cross instead of a brooch. The man's dress is a blue woolen jersey. wide trousers and a cap. As remembrance of former times. on several occasions he wears a top hat.

SPAKENBURG - HOLLAND

SPAKENBURG

This **costume** Is very bright-coloured for the women the first thing which strikes you is the **covering** of the shoulders which is made of white material with bright coloured red flowers. Close around the neck they wear a red striped muffler, which is pinned at the waist. The muffler, which a bride wears is white. The half long over sleeves and the upper part of the apron are also of striped white material. The hair is put up and held together with a black ribbon, on it comes a black under cap and then a cap of white lace. Very special is the wedding-costume, which all young girls seem to have in stock, even before they get engaged. They wear it when they go to church
The children's dress is more simple though it is strong red coloured.

STAPHORST - HOLLAND

STAPHORST.

The costume of this village distinguishes itself from many others by its completeness. as well for men, women and children. The woollen material, people need for the dress, comes from the sheep. which are reared by the inhabitants. The women spin the woollen thread, which is coloured by them in special colours and is woven by hand to material. The red checkered kerchief strikes very much against he blue of the bodice, the ribbons of the apron are always light blue, the bow hangs in front of the body with long ends. The petticoats are held up by little cushions, so that they make the hips broader than they are. Under the singular cap an ear-ornament is worn, fastened by a black ribbon. Children wear the same dress, though it is more simple.

On Sundays the Staphhorst woman goes to church with a beautiful. Silver decorated bible with chains, clasp etc.; she is very clean on her dress. Men's dress is simple; closed waistcoat and short jacket with two rows of silver buttons the shirt with the two famous Staphorst buttons is to he seen at the neck.

TWENTE - HOLLAND

TWENTE.

In Twente principally the pleated cap with gold ear decoration and coral neck chain is characteristic for the costume. This cap is also worn in other districts of the province Ovenijssel and has a band of heavy pleats behind and is washed and ironed by the hearer herself.

VOLENDAM - HOLLAND

VOLENDAM.

Here the national costume is nearly only worn by the Roman Catholics. The Volendam costume is the most known abroad and thus became the type of the Dutchman. hut this is wrong. The special sturdy health of men and women is very much expressed in their dress, Around the neck women wear two square rags of nice coloured material with bright flowers, these rags are cut out near the neck. The bodice of dark-blue material has half-long sleeves. On Sundays they wear a nice white or flowered kerchief of tulle. Over their petticoats the Volendam women wear a thick woollen petticoat with deep-red and green vertical stripes. over it an apron of checkered-woven material. on Sundays made of silk. which has all kinds of coloured decorations. The cap is of white lace and is worn over a black undercap. the hairs are cut off like by a boy.

Around the neck a neck chain of red corals with gold clasp, sometimes a hlue woollen muffler.

The men's dress consists of a red baize shirt with long sleeves. two gold buttons at the neck. around the waist a kind of body-belt and wide trousers, on which two large silver buttons. On the head a cap or shaggy cap with green ribbons behind.

WALCHEREN - HOLLAND

WALCHEREN - HOLLAND

WALCHEREN.

As beautiful as the island is so beautiful the women and girls also are there with their wonderful build, their fine-cut faces, their dark eyes. beautiful arms and necks.
Women's dress is the same for children and grown ups and consists of a number of petticoats. the upper of black material. The arms are bare till over the elbow. The marvellous cap with gold decoration is white, sometimes with lace and pleats. The hair is curled in a special way. Around the neck is a red coral chain with gold clasp. . The shoes are slippers even in winter the healthy woman defies the cold, although her arms are bare. There is nothing more remarkable than a market day at Middelburg. in front of the picturesque town hall a show of a great number of dresses. unique in that part of Europe

WEST- FRIESLAND.

Here the cap and ear decoration only has remained with further some typifying body decorations. The cap is worn over the hair, which is held together by a small ribbon. First a black and then a white under cap, the latter of lace and set off with a black ribbon. Over this cap comes the ear-decoration, a gold band of about 2 inches breadth, ending in square, filigree worked side pieces. Over this comes the over cap, often made of real lace with wings. The ear decoration and the under cap shines through the cap of tulle, which makes a very rich effect, The ear decoration also has curved gold needles, near them are often fixed false black curls of hair. On the forehead the older women often wear a gold needle with diamonds. Around the neck a chain of very big red corals with gold clasp, gold brooch and gold chain, on which hangs a little gold cross. Besides many people wear a gold watch chain, reaching the middle. The whole hair dress is a very fine and complicated construction of lace needles and feathers, richly set with diamonds; gold ear drops in the ears This costume is very expensive,

URK - HOLLAND

URK.

On this most interesting fishermen's island. now belonging to the continent by the partial reclaiming of the Zuyder Sea, still live people of race. beautiful and healthy of build with beautiful types of women and strong men.
The men's dress with the short wide trousers and the close-fitting jackets is the easiest dress for their work, the fishing trade.
Of course the women wear the usual number of petticoats of different material, mostly of dark flowered silk, dark wool or cloth with here and there a little decoration.
The covering of the head is very close-fitting. so that the often very beautiful face comes out clearly. Over the hair comes the black under-cap thereover the silver ear-decoration then the overcap of lace. Around the neck a chain of corals with a gold clasp behind. The front of the kerchief is mostly decorated with an ornament which sometimes shows the initials of the bearer. The shawl is of dark-coloured flowered silk, often dark-red or purple with fringe. The apron is of flowered silk. Over the bare underarms women wear black knitted woollen muffetees. Remarkable is, that the costume for widows. brides and children does not change in form, hut in colour. For a widow it is black, for a bride more colored. for the children more simple.

ZUID-BEVELAND - HOLLAND

ZUID-BEVELAND.

This costume is the richest of all in Zeeland. The Protestant women wear a round cap, the Catholics a model which is more square. Besides that around the neck of the last is a decoration of lace and corals. Mostly three petticoats are worn. over them an apron of black silk. The clothes for the upper part of the body are every year made of an other material and are worn for the first time on Easter Sunday. The richness of many Zeeland girl is valued to the number of different clothes and neck chains. At the feet they wear leather shoes.

The caps of the Roman Catholics are starched with some powder blue, those of the Protestants are white. The first have their caps ironed, the latter do it themselves. They wear a necklace of 5 rows of big beads, on Sundays even 6 rows; the Catholics wear the gold clasp behind. the Protestants in front of the neck; the clasp has 3 eyes on weekly days. on Sundays 5.

Even the little children wear this costume, which is very expensive.